

REMARKS:

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Final Office Action of March 4, 2009. Claims 1, 3-11, and 32-37 remain pending, with claim 1 being an independent claim. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1.

Claims 1, 3-11, and 32-37 remain in this application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance. Review and consideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-11, and 32-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 10, 32, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0039590 A1 to Furukawa et al. ("*Furukawa*") in view of "HKU Campus Network Handbook Chapter 4- Network Printing (HKU Campus Network Handbook – Last Update 7/16/1998, Chapter 4- Network Printing", hereinafter "*HKU*"). In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are allowable for at least the following reasons:

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of configuring a peripheral device on a network which requires, *inter alia*, sending, without user intervention, a request from a host to the peripheral device across the network; receiving, without user intervention, a response from the peripheral device, the response including a current configuration setting of the peripheral device. *Furukawa* in Fig. 5 discloses various steps performed by a host computer for setting address information, such as an IP address for network printers. In *Furukawa*, after the host computer displays the list of MAC addresses and list of printers, the host computer waits for input from the user and judges whether the user has selected one of the printer names from the displayed list. (See Fig. 5; page 1, paragraphs [0014]; page 3, paragraph [0037]). The user selects the node or network printer to set with address information and inputs the address information. (See *Furukawa*, Fig. 5; page 1, paragraphs [0014]; page 3, paragraph [0037]). Thus, as admitted by the Examiner in Paragraph 15, in *Furukawa* user intervention is required in order to receive a response from the peripheral device.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to specifically state that the actions of sending a request and receiving a response are accomplished without user intervention, and support is for these amendments is found in the application (See, e.g., paragraph [0003]). Therefore, *Furukawa* fails to disclose or suggest the element of “sending, without user intervention, a request from a host to the peripheral device across the network” or the element of “receiving, without user intervention, a response from the peripheral device, the response including a current configuration setting of the peripheral device” of the claimed invention, and *HKU* fails to cure the defects of *Furukawa*.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the two references cannot disclose or suggest the claimed invention and independent claim 1 is allowable for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 10, 32 and 36 which depend from independent claim 1 are also allowable for at least these same reasons.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 7-9, 11, 33-35, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Furukawa* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0084132 A1 to Ohta (“*Ohta*”).

As discussed above, with respect to the elements in independent claim 1, *Furukawa* fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention, and *Ohta* fails to cure the defects therein. Thus, the combination of the two references cannot disclose or suggest the claimed invention, and claims 3, 7-9, 11, 33-35, and 37 which depend from claim 1 are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Furukawa* in view of *HKU* further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0078161 A1 to Cheng (“*Cheng*”).

As discussed above, with respect to the elements in independent claim 1, *Furukawa* in view of *HKU* fails to disclose or suggest the element of the claimed invention, and *Cheng* fails to cure the defects therein. Thus, the combination of the three references cannot disclose or suggest the claimed invention, and claims 4, 5, and 6 which depend from claim 1 are also allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that no cited reference, alone or in combination with other cited references, teaches, discloses, or suggests the subject matter of the pending claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone or email the undersigned using the contact information provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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